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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hiroshi KAWAKAMI, et al.

Appln. No. 10/081,183

Group Art Unit: 1752

Confirmation No.: 6250

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: February 25, 2002

For: SILVER HALIDE EMULSION

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) (substitute for PTO Form 1449) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a

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request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation of requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant submits the following explanation:

1. Similarity in construction of the inventions

Both the emulsion of the present invention and that disclosed in JP-A-11-125874 are those with good uniformity of inter-grain or intra-grain distribution, of a minor component in the vicinity of the surface of silver halide grains. For example, if silver iodochlorobromide contains silver bromide as its main component, silver iodide or silver chloride is the minor component.

2. Difference in construction of the inventions

With respect to the shape of emulsion grains, JP-A-11-125874 states in its text that tabular grains are preferred, but in the claims there are no particular limitations about the shape of the grains. On the other hand, the present application provides an invention that restricts grains to be (111) tabular grains as thin as 0.1 μm or less, and the advantages are exerted only in the thickness range.

With regard to the halide of the “minor component”, which is the subject for evaluation in uniformity as mentioned in item 1 above, JP-A-11-125874 does not restrict the composition thereof as long as it is a “minor component.” In contrast, the present invention limits it to silver iodide.

3. Similarity in advantages

Both the present invention and JP-A-11-125874 mention improvement in sensitivity.

4. Difference in advantages

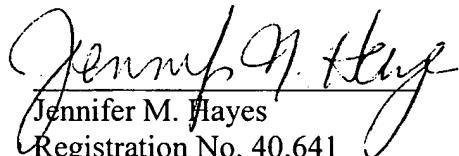
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The present invention mentions an advantage of reduction in pressure desensitization. In contrast, JP-A-11-125874 contains no particular descriptions on pressure capability, but mentions advantages in preservability, concentration of developed silver and color tone.

Further, the present invention mentions that the greater the diameter of a main plane, the more remarkable the advantages. However, JP-A-11-125874 does not refer particularly to the diameter of a main plane.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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